

Falcon Focus

A Falcon District Neighborhood Watch Newsletter from the Crime Prevention Unit of the Mesa Police Department

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Chief Dennis Donna

June 2003

H.E.A.T

In 2001, the Mesa Police Department received calls from citizens to report 4,567 vehicles as stolen, but the Crime Prevention Unit wants to curb that trend with a program designed to help residents protect their vehicles.

Launched in February, the H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Automobile Theft) program's focus is to help Mesa residents keep their cars from being stolen. The department received a \$20,000 grant from the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority to distribute 2,000 steering wheel locks.

At H.E.A.T. events, Mesa residents can obtain a free steering wheel lock by signing up for the statewide "Watch Your Car" program. In addition, working in conjunction with Auto Theft, Bikes and CAT, the Crime Prevention Unit offered residents the option to have their vehicle identification number etched on their car windows, and distributed information on auto theft prevention.

Through H.E.A.T. events, the Crime Prevention Unit has handed out 1,139 steering wheel locks and performed 388 VIN etchings.

Events were held at the Superstition, Central and Dobson Police substations, Dobson, Red Mountain and Mt. View High Schools. We had a wonderful and at times, were overwhelmed by the response to our Watch Your Car free steering wheel lock and VIN etching events for the citizens of Mesa. The event we held at the Central District Substation in downtown Mesa was by far the largest gathering to-date with a total of 164 steering wheel locks given away and 123 vehicles had their VINs etched on their windows. At one time the line to the parking lot in front of the substation extended completely around the block!

Also, we will receive another grant from the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority to purchase our own VIN etching equipment so we will be able to offer that service in conjunction with the Auto Theft Unit detectives even after all of the steering wheel locks are gone.

Our office still has steering wheel locks available for free if you sign up for the "Watch Your Car" program. Call me at: 644-2539 or the Crime Prevention Unit at: 644-2300 for details.

Safety Awareness Bulletin for Citizens

The **Arizona Department of Public Safety** has issued an Awareness Bulletin for Citizens that asks for the involvement of citizens in helping law enforcement protect life and property. Here is how you can assist Arizona law enforcement agencies in their goals of countering terrorism:

- ❖ Remain alert and be aware of every day activities in your neighborhood.
- ❖ Encourage the involvement of family, friends and neighbors.
- ❖ Assume responsibility; observe and report activities that appear out of place or unusual.

If you become aware of suspicious activity, please do not take direct action, confront the individual or reveal your suspicions. Here's what you can do: Record as many details as possible, and notify the appropriate authorities as soon as possible.

✓ **Ask the following questions:**

WHO did I observe?

WHAT specifically did I see?

WHERE did I observe the suspicious behavior?

WHEN did I observe the suspicious behavior?

WHY do I think the behavior is suspicious?

✓ **Follow these tips on describing the situation:**

Person:

Sex, Race and (approx) Age

Complexion (light, dark, ruddy, olive)

Eyes (color, glasses), Hair (color, length, facial)

Peculiarities (scars, tattoos, missing limbs)

Height (approx), Weight (approx)

Clothing (head to toe, style, color), Weapon (if any)

Build (medium, heavy, thin)

Method of escape (direction, walking, driving)

Vehicle:

License Plate (most important)

Year, Make, Model

Damage or anything unusual, such as logos,

Bumper stickers or tinted windows

Body Type (2-door, van, SUV, etc) Passengers - number in vehicle

If you observe suspicious activity, please report it to the Mesa Police Department at: (480) 644-2211

Preparing for the Unexpected

The following Government agencies have written pamphlets and brochures available that you may want to provide for your neighbors in your Neighborhood Watch. All are available on-line and can either be printed or the web-site link provided. The American Red Cross has printed materials to help you, your families and neighbors prepare for events that you may not have anticipated or may happen unexpectedly. These events may be as dramatic as acts of terrorism or be as natural as weather emergencies. You may request single copies of their materials or download and print right from their website.

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

American Red Cross materials dealing with terrorism and unexpected events:

www.redcross.org/pubs/dspubs/termat.html

American Red Cross Family Disaster Planning:

www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/familyplan.html

Terrorism— Preparing for the Unexpected:

www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/unexpected.html

Federal Emergency Management Agency : www.fema.gov

FEMA Library contains publications:

www.fema.gov/library/

FEMA's "[Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness](http://www.fema.gov/doc/areyouready/)"

www.fema.gov/doc/areyouready/

U.S. Department of Homeland Security: www.ready.gov

"[Make A Kit](http://www.ready.gov/make_a_kit.html)" of Emergency Supplies:

www.ready.gov/make_a_kit.html

"[Make A Plan](http://www.ready.gov/make_a_plan.html)" for what you will do in an emergency:

www.ready.gov/make_a_plan.html

"[Be Informed](http://www.ready.gov/get_informed.html)" about what might happen:

www.ready.gov/get_informed.html

"[Preparing Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.](http://www.ready.gov/readygov_brochurev2.pdf)" (1-800-BE-READY)

www.ready.gov/readygov_brochurev2.pdf



Colors for Homeland Advisory System:

Severe: Red

High: Orange

Elevated: Yellow

Guarded: Blue

Low: Green

Calendar of Events — Summer 2003

- June 17** "Be Alert" Child Safety Program
6:00 to 7:00 pm
Main Library (64 E. 1st)
RSVP Jerry Quarles 480-644-2539
- July 15 & 17** RAD Self Defense Training for Women
5:00 to 10:00 pm
Red Mountain Multigenerational Center
(7552 E. Adobe)
Prior registration through Mesa Parks & Recreation
Call Terri at 644-3692 for details.
- July 22** "Be Alert" Child Safety Program
6:00 to 7:00 pm
Main Library (64 E. 1st)
RSVP Jerry Quarles 480-644-2539
- September** G.A.I.N. Kick-off
- October 4** G.A.I.N. 2003

G.A.I.N. 2003 Update

Mark your Calendars!!!

Tentatively, Saturday, October 4, 2003, will be the night of the annual G.A.I.N. event in Mesa. It is never too early to start planning, especially if you decide you want to do a "theme" party. For those who would like to try a "themed event" I have the party packets that were distributed last year, which will provide ideas and recipes.

The date, time and location of the G.A.I.N. Kick-Off will be announced as soon as we can finalize the details.

New Neighborhood Watch Groups

2400 - 2700 E. Boston	April & Mark Jordan Monica & Robert Major
1300 E. June	April & Collin Anderson Tom Kowalczyk
400 - 500 S. Spur	Edith & Wallace Haws Klista Monge Selma Fish
2900 E. Hackamore	Judy & Mitch Barrett Mark & Shelly Messer
2800 - 29 00 E. Emelita	Kellen & Wayne Cardon
3300 - 3400 E. Harmony	Margine & Phill Swanson Melissa & Mike Hall
3100 E. Mckellips	Christine & Chad Parlier Shari & Howard Lyon Donna Mlazgar

I would like to thank each and every one of these Block Captains for all the time and effort they have put into the starting of a Neighborhood Watch in their area. It takes sincere dedication and strong commitment to challenge your neighborhood and community in the fight against crime. Keep up the good work.

Speeding Problems?

The Neighborhood Speed Watch Program is a citizen-involved activity in which neighborhood residents collect vehicle and speed information to allow identification of and warnings to be sent to speed violators on residential streets.

The Transportation Division will loan out radar equipment to a neighborhood representative for use in measuring traffic speeds in their neighborhood. Residents using the radar gun will complete a data sheet on speeding vehicles and provide that information to the Transportation office.

Notices will be sent through the Police Department to the registered owners of the speeding vehicles encouraging them to watch their speeds.

The intent of this program is to promote safety on the streets of Mesa by voluntary compliance of the speed limits in our neighborhoods.

For more information and to check out a radar gun, please contact the Mesa Transportation Division at:
(480) 644-2160

When do I have to provide my Social Security number?

The Social Security number (SSN) was originally devised to keep an accurate record of each individual's earnings, and to subsequently monitor benefits paid under the Social Security program. However, use of the SSN as a general identifier has grown to the point where it is the most commonly used and convenient identifier for all types of record-keeping systems in the United States.

Specific laws require a person to provide his/her SSN for certain purposes. While we cannot give you a comprehensive list of all situations where an SSN might be required or requested, an SSN is required/requested by:

- Internal Revenue Service for tax returns and federal loans
- Employers for wage and tax reporting purposes
- States for the school lunch program
- Banks for monetary transactions
- Veterans Administration as a hospital admission number
- Department of Labor for workers' compensation
- Department of Education for Student Loans
- States to administer taxes, public assistance, motor vehicle or drivers license law within its jurisdiction
- States for child support enforcement
- States for commercial driver's licenses
- States for Food Stamps
- States for Medicaid
- States for Unemployment Compensation
- States for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- U.S. Treasury for U.S. Savings Bonds

The Privacy Act regulates the use of SSNs by government agencies. When a Federal, State, or local government agency asks an individual to disclose his or her Social Security number, the Privacy Act requires the agency to inform the person of the following: the statutory or other authority for requesting the information; whether disclosure is mandatory or voluntary; what uses will be made of the information; and the consequences, if any, of failure to provide the information.

If a business or other enterprise asks you for your SSN, you can refuse to give it. However, that may mean doing without the purchase or service for which your number was requested. For example, utility companies and other services ask for a Social Security number, but do not need it; they can do a credit check or identify the person in their records by alternative means. Giving your number is voluntary, even when you are asked for the number directly. If requested, you should ask why your number is needed, how your number will be used, what law requires you to give your number and what the consequences are if you refuse. The answers to these questions can help you decide if you want to give your Social Security number. The decision is yours.

For more information about your Social Security Number visit: www.ssa.gov/

Replace ¾”
strike plate
screws with
longer 2-3”
screws on
outside doors.



A.C.P.A.

The **Arizona Crime Prevention Association™ (ACPA)** is an organization of law enforcement officers, crime prevention specialists, business loss prevention experts, and **private citizens** dedicated to the ideas and promotion of Crime Prevention awareness throughout the State of Arizona. For more information and to join the ACPA, visit them at: www.acpa.net

The benefits of membership include:

- ❖ E-mail notifications
- ❖ Meeting reminders
- ❖ Conference information
- ❖ Free Admission to selected training sessions



S.M.I.L.E.

The goal of the **S.M.I.L.E. or Safety Magic In Law Enforcement™** Organization is to teach safety and violence prevention to children using the variety arts of magic, puppetry and clowning. For more information and to join the ACPA, visit them at: www.smileclowns.org

The benefits of membership include:

- ❖ Monthly E-News
- ❖ S.M.I.L.E. Newsletter
- ❖ Conference Discount
- ❖ Free Admission to Quarterly Trainings



Mesa Neighborhood Watch Stats

Total Mesa Neighborhood Watches	709
Falcon District	191
Superstition District	276
Dobson District	114
Central District	128
Total Captains & Assistants	1,332
Falcon Captains & Assistants	346

Crime Prevention Specialist Jerry Quarles, CPS

Falcon District Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

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E-mail: jerry.quarles@cityofmesa.org

Community Relations Unit:

480-644-2300

Fax: 480-644-2800

Mesa City Home Page:

www.cityofmesa.org